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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/136,244 08/19/98 BEIZER M 76179DAN

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TM31/1023

EXAMINER

HO, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED:

10/23/00

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SK

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/136,244

Applicant(s)

Belzer et al.

Examiner

RUAY LIAN HO

Group Art Unit
2172



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 5, 2000

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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Response to Amendment

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakagawa et al. (USPN 5,819,295).

Regarding claim 1:

Each and every element of claim 1 is disclosed by Nakagawa et al., note: the claimed ‘at least one structured workfolder for storing and organizing electronic documents’ is shown in col.2, l.30-40,

the claimed ‘workfolder containing a contents element for storing primary data, said contents element containing one or more placeholders for indicating documents expected to be added to said workfolder via said placeholder’ is shown in col.2, l.30-56.

Regarding claim 2:

The claimed ‘said contents element further contains one or more section elements for categorizing said primary’ is shown in col.2, l.30-56.

Regarding claim 3:

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The claimed 'said section elements contains one or more of a placeholder, a link to a document, and a nested section element' is shown in col.7, l.18-26.

Regarding claim 4:

The claimed 'said link identifies a document embedded in said workfolder' is shown in col.8, l.19-65.

Regarding claim 5:

The claimed 'said link identifies a document external to said workfolder' is shown in col.7, l.18-26.

Regarding claim 6:

The claimed 'said contents element further contains at least one link to a document' is shown in col.7, l.18-26.

Regarding claim 7:

Claim 7 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 4.

Regarding claim 8:

Claim 8 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

Regarding claim 9:

The claimed 'said placeholder further comprises a name field for indicating the data content of the document to be placed in the workfolder and a file object hook to which a primary data document can later be linked' is shown in col.7, l.18-56.

Regarding claim 10:

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Claim 10 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 9.

Regarding claim 11:

The claimed 'said placeholder further comprises a status element indicating a status for a document linked to said placeholder' is shown in col.4, l.66 to col.5, l.25 & col.7, l.18-56.

Regarding claim 12:

Claim 12 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 11.

Regarding claim 13:

The claimed 'a deadline element including a field indicating a time period for taking a particular action associated with said placeholder' is shown in col.5, l.32-43.

Regarding claim 14:

Claim 14 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

Regarding claim 15:

Claim 15 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

Regarding claim 16:

Claim 16 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

Regarding claim 17:

Claim 17 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

Regarding claim 18:

Claim 18 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 10-11.

Regarding claim 19:

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Claim 19 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 12.

Regarding claim 20:

Claim 20 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

Regarding claim 21:

Claim 21 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

Regarding claim 22:

The claimed 'said workfolder further comprises meta-data related to the primary data stored under said contents node' is shown in col.7, 1.57 to col.8, 1.12.

Regarding claim 23:

The claimed 'a history element for storing a log of changes made to said workfolder' is shown in col.9, 1.10-35.

Regarding claim 24:

Claim 24 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 23.

Regarding claim 25:

The claimed 'user-definable data fields relating to one or more properties of said workfolder' is shown in col.8, 1.51-65.

Regarding claim 26:

Claim 26 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 12.

Regarding claim 27:

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The claimed 'one or more embedded computer program scripts which provide functions related to said workfolder when said scripts are executed by a computer' is shown in col.1, l.24-35.

Regarding claims 28-36:

Claims 28-36 are rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1-27.

Regarding claims 37-58:

Claims 37-58 are rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1-27.

3. Applicant's arguments filed with 05 September 2000 amendment have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argued that '[t]he reference fails to disclose or suggest that the workfolders contain a content element containing one or more placeholders for indicating documents expected to be added to the workfolder via the placeholder' (page 2, line 11-14) is not correct. Applicants persistently argued about the non-disclosure of this limitation in the cited reference, Nakagawa et al., for claims 1, 28, and 37. The Nakagawa patent specifically discloses 'to specify a version of a folder to retrieve related documents in each folder as a unit of operation, move documents in old versions to another storage place collectively, or deleted documents in old versions collective.' and 'it is possible to use it separately in plural folders.' in column 2, lines 58-62 and lines 64-65, which clearly disclose the document deleting and adding technique used in plural folders. Applicants' choice of using 'workfolder' and 'placeholders' instead of 'plural folders' is the only

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difference at issue. However, the terminology difference or the 'folder label' difference does not entitle any patentable weight.

Applicants further argued that 'Nakagawa fails to disclose or suggest a data element that defines a set of steps required to complete a unit of work' is not correct either because all the claimed elements are disclosed by the cited reference. The Nakagawa patent discloses 'document attributes' in column 5, line 14, which manages and indicates the status of the task specified in 'a unit of work', such as, versions of the document, a correspondence relation between a version of the folder and a version of each of the document included in the folder, moving documents of designated versions in the folder, all these managing means together in 'a unit of folder' in the operation (column 5, lines 12-25).

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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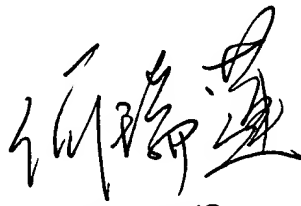
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruay L. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 305-3834. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9051 or (703) 308-5403.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.



RUAY LIAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER